

**K-9 Unit**

The primary function of the K-9 Unit is to augment operations of the three patrol divisions through a complement of dog teams on patrol. While all of the handlers are certified for patrol work, some are also cross trained and certified as explosive detection teams. All of the teams are certified through the Virginia Police Work Dog Association.

Dog teams search residential and commercial buildings when a burglary is suspected; track suspects that have fled from a scene; apprehend individuals suspected of committing serious felonies; assist with the control of large, unruly crowds, and respond to any other incident where it is safer for a dog team to be utilized than an officer alone. In addition to these responsibilities, members of the K-9 Unit play a crucial role on the Crowd Management Team. The explosive detector dogs also respond to bomb threat calls, suspicious package calls, and work hand in hand with the Bomb Squad.

The Norfolk Police K-9 Unit, in a continuing effort to maintain the highest professional standards, trains more than 4,000 hours a year. This ensures that members provide the best possible service to the citizens of Norfolk and are able to handle new and varied tactical situations as safely as possible.